

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 07863

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, PEPR, TU
SUBJECT: AD HOC GROUP ON ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND PORTUGAL:
POSSIBLE MEETING ON TURKISH EQUIPMENT NEEDS IN SEPTEMBER

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REFS: (A) USNATO 7815 (DTG 231735Z AUG 78),
(B) STATE 212702 (DTG 221503Z AUG 78), (C) USNATO 7455
(DTG 071550Z AUG 78)

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1. AS INDICATED REFS A AND C, IT IS LIKELY THAT A MEETING
OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND PORTUGAL
WILL TAKE PLACE RELATIVELY SOON, POSSIBLY IN SEPTEMBER,
ASSUMING THAT ACTION ON LIFTING THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN COM-
PLETED. WE NOTE ALSO THAT IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH
MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG (REF B) COUNSELOR NIMETZ
CITED US REQUESTS OF OUR NATO ALLIES TO PROVIDE TURKEY
WITH SURPLUS US ORIGIN OR LICENSED EQUIPMENT AS ONE EXAMPLE
OF HOW THE US IS TRYING TO BE RESPONSIVE IN HELPING TURKEY
MEET ITS MILITARY NEEDS.

2. GIVEN OUR DESIRE TO ASSIST AND TO HAVE NATO PERCEIVED AS
ASSISTING TURKEY, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PREPARE
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THE GROUND IN ADVANCE WITH OUR ALLIES TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO
BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE REGARDING TURKISH MILITARY
NEEDS AND TO BE PREPARED TO RESPOND IN AS CONCRETE A
FASHION AS POSSIBLE WHEN THE AD HOC GROUP DOES MEET.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS
FOR APPROACHES IN NATO-AD HOC GROUP CAPITALS (WE WOULD

PROPOSE BONN, LONDON, BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE, OTTAWA, COPENHAGEN, OSLO AND ROME) ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

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--NOW THAT THE US CONGRESS IN CONFERENCE HAS ACTED FAVORABLY REGARDING THE TURKISH EMBARGO, WE ANTICIPATE THAT FORMAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO THROUGH FINAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AND ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER.

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--THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO SHOULD IN OUR VIEW FACILITATE TRANSFERS TO TURKEY BY OTHER COUNTRIES OF EXCESS MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF US ORIGIN OR LICENSE.

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--WE BELIEVE SUCH TRANSFERS, IN THE WAKE OF THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, SHOULD BE A PRINCIPAL TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION WHEN THE NATO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND TURKEY MEETS NEXT REGARDING TURKISH NEEDS. WE UNDERSTAND THIS MIGHT BE IN SEPTEMBER AS WELL; WE BELIEVE SUCH A MEETING COULD BE USEFUL ONCE FORMAL ACTION ON THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

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--WE HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW IN DETAIL THE TURKISH LIST OF NEEDED EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS CIRCULATED IN NATO IN MAY AS WELL AS YOUR OWN INVENTORIES TO SEE WHAT ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT BE PREPARED TO GIVE TO TURKEY, WHOSE MILITARY FORCES, AS YOU KNOW, ARE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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DESPERATE NEED OF HELP. IN ADDITION THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF NATO COMING TO THE ASSISTANCE OF A TROUBLED MEMBER WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT IN TURKEY.

4. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARALLEL THESE APPROACHES IN NATO. AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO RESTRICT OUR APPROACHES TO THOSE WE MAKE HERE, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE LESS IMPACT, IN OUR VIEW.

5. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING AN ANALYSIS FROM WASHINGTON, WHEN AVAILABLE, AS TO THE IMPACT OF THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO ON TRANSFERS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES TO TURKEY OF US ORIGIN OR LICENSED EQUIPMENT. WE WILL NEED, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO ALLIED QUERIES, TO BE KEPT INFORMED ON THE STEPS, INCLUDING TIMING, WHICH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION, WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EFFECT ANY TRANSFERS OF EQUIPMENT FROM THE ALLIES TO TURKEY AFTER THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE/COMMENTS ON ABOVE. BENNETT

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MR. R. SNIDER, S/S-O.

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